

**BEFORE THE STATE ELECTION BOARD
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF
REGISTRARS AND ELECTIONS**

Respondent.

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Case No. 2006-000051

CONSENT ORDER

The State Election Board and the Respondent, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections, in lieu of further administrative or legal proceedings, hereby enter into the following stipulations and settlement agreement for the purpose of resolving this matter with the entry of this Consent Order.

STIPULATED FACTS

1.

During the 2006 election cycle, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections failed to provide poll worker training to 13 poll workers, but the poll workers were still permitted to serve and conduct primaries and elections at the polls.

2.

During the 2006 election cycle, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections failed to issue certificates of training to poll workers showing that they have been found qualified to conduct an election.

3.

During the 2006 election cycle, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections failed to validate the signatures on absentee ballot applications with the signatures on the respective absentee voters' registration cards.

4.

During the 2006 election cycle, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections accepted ten absentee ballot applications that were either not signed by the applicant or did not contain the signature in the space provided on the application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5.

The Respondent, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections, acknowledges that it violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-99(a) by failing to provide adequate training to all poll workers before the first election in the 2006 election cycle.

6.

The Respondent, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections, acknowledges that it violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-99(b) by permitting untrained poll workers to serve in the 2006 election cycle.

7.

The Respondent, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections, acknowledges that it violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381(b) by failing to determine the eligibility of an absentee applicant by validating the applicant's signature on the absentee ballot application.

8.

The Respondent, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections, acknowledges that it violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(B) by failing to validate absentee ballots by comparing the signatures on the absentee ballot oath envelopes with the ~~an~~ unvalidated signature on the absentee ballot application.

9.

The Respondent, the Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections, acknowledges that it violated O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(C) by failing to reject three absentee ballot applications that were not signed by an elector.

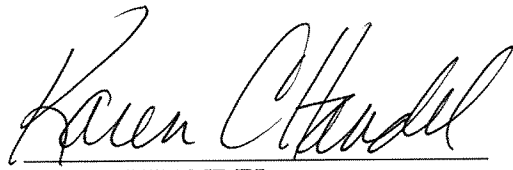
ORDER

The Georgia State Election Board, having considered the particular facts and circumstances of this case, inclusive of the within and forgoing “Stipulated Facts” and “Conclusions of Law,” hereby **ORDERS**, and the Respondent hereby agrees, to cease and desist from violating O.C.G.A. § 21-2-99 (a) and (b), O.C.G.A. § 21-2-381(b), O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(B) and O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(C). By this Order, the Respondent is hereby reprimanded for its conduct.

This Consent Order, inclusive of its Stipulations and Order, shall not become effective unless and until approved by the Georgia State Election Board. If not agreed to, approved by, and executed on behalf of, the Georgia State Election Board, neither stipulation nor any other part of this agreement shall have any binding legal effect whatsoever and shall not constitute an admission against interest or prejudice the ability of either the Board or Respondent to adjudicate this matter.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of December, 2007.

(signatures on following page)

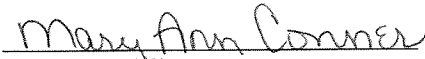


KAREN HANDEL
State Election Board

CONSENTED TO BY:



Evelyn Panter
Chairperson
Respondent Fannin County Board of Registration and Elections



Notary Public
My Commissions Expires _____

